

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to remove "combinations of alpha-olefins and isobutene alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum" and "polyisobutenes" from the Markush groups required by each of claims 1 and 21. Claim 37 has been cancelled. Claims 1-36 and 41 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment C and Response After RCE. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-6, 13-18, and 37-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 1-6, 13-18, and 37-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Gatto et al. (U.S. 6,570,054).

Claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to an absorbent article comprising a liner material having a bodyfacing surface. The bodyfacing surface has deposited thereon a lotion formation in an amount of from about 0.05 mg/cm² to about 100 mg/cm². The lotion formulation comprises from about 10% (by total weight of the formulation) to about 89% (by total weight of the formulation) of an emollient, from about 10% (by total weight of the formulation) to about 50% (by total weight of the formulation) of a structurant, and from about 0.1% (by total weight of the formulation) to about 40% (by total weight of the formulation) of a rheology enhancer. The rheology enhancer is selected from the group consisting of dextrin palmitate, dextrin palmitate ethylhexanoate, stearyl inulin, combinations of di-functional alpha-olefins and styrene alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum; styrene/butadiene/styrene copolymers,

styrene/isoprene/styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene copolymers, (styrene-butadiene)_n polymers, (styrene-isoprene)_n polymers, styrene-butadiene polymers, polyethylene polyisobutylenes, and combinations thereof.

Gatto et al. disclose an absorbent article having a stable skin care composition disposed on its skin-contacting surface. The skin care composition contains a substantially anhydrous, oil-based carrier comprising an emollient and, optionally, an immobilizing agent, at least one skin care ingredient, and at least one rheological agent. Suitable emollients, which are present in the skin care composition in an amount of from about 0% (by weight) to about 99.9% (by weight), can include, for example, mineral oil, petrolatum, sucrose ester fatty acids, polyethylene glycol and derivatives thereof, fatty acid ester types, alkyl ethoxylate types, waxes, and mixtures thereof.¹ The immobilizing agents are present in the skin care composition in an amount of from about 5% (by weight) to about 95% (by weight) and can include C₁₄-C₆₀ fatty alcohols, C₁₄-C₆₀ fatty acids, C₁₄-C₆₀ fatty alcohol ethoxylates, polyhydroxy fatty acid esters, polyhydroxy fatty acid amides, waxes such as carnauba, ozokerite, beeswax, candelilla, paraffin, ceresin, esparto, ouricuri, rezowax, isoparaffin, and combinations thereof.² Additionally, the skin care composition can comprise from about 0.1% (by weight) to about 25% (by weight) rheological agents selected from Type A rheological agents, Type B rheological agents, or mixtures thereof. Type A rheological agents can include fumed silica,

¹ See 6,570,054 at column 16, lines 35-61.

² See *id.* at column 19, lines 60-65; column 20, lines 21-23; and column 22, lines 38-43.

organoclays, quaternium-18, hectorites, stearalkonium hectorites, quaternium-18 bentonites, quaternium-18 benzalkonium bentonites, stearalkonium bentonites, and their mixtures with at least one member selected from the group consisting of mineral oil, propylene carbonate, isopropyl palmitate, cyclomethicone, castor oil, lanolin, propylparaben, and C₁₂-C₁₅ alkyl benzoate.³ Type B rheological agents include, for example, polymeric rheological agents such as polymethacrylate polymers, polymethacrylate and styrene copolymers, which can optionally be crosslinked by a common crosslinking agent, polyethylene, polyethylene and acrylic acid or vinyl acetate copolymers, polyisobutylene, poly- α -olefins, bi or tri-component copolymers of styrene and hydrogenate ethylene, propylene, and butylene.⁴

Specifically, Gatto et al. fail to disclose the specific rheology enhancers as required by amended claim 1. These are significant requirements of claim 1 and are significant aspects of Applicants' invention as described in Applicants' specification.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office action, the Office notes that Gatto et al. discloses poly-alpha-olefins alone. While Gatto et al. disclose poly-alpha-olefins in general, nowhere are the combinations of di-functional alpha-olefins and styrene alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum as required in claim 1 as amended, taught or suggested in Gatto et al. Specifically, nowhere in the Gatto et al. reference is it taught or suggested to use di-functional alpha-olefins. Additionally, the only mention of styrene in Gatto et al. is in column 15, lines 58-

³ See *Id.* at column 14, lines 10-66.

⁴ See *Id.* at column 15, lines 58-65.

61, in which styrenes are present as part of various copolymers.

Additionally, even if the Office is including styrene generically in the disclosure of poly-alpha-olefins, Applicants respectfully assert that at best, Gatto et al. may have disclosed the genus of poly-alpha-olefins. Even assuming that the limited disclosure of the Gatto et al. reference discloses this genus, Applicants' claim 1, which includes the combinations of di-functional alpha-olefins and styrene alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum, defines a species of that genus nowhere disclosed in the reference. As stated in M.P.E.P. §2131.02, a genus does not anticipate a claim to a species within the genus, unless the species is clearly named or well delineated. Applicants assert that the broad generic disclosure of poly-alpha-olefins as set forth in Gatto et al. fails to clearly provide or delineate the combinations of di-functional alpha-olefins and styrene alone or in combination with mineral oil or petrolatum, and, as such, cannot anticipate the rheology enhancements required by Applicants' claim 1.

Furthermore, the Office states that the rheology enhancers of claim 1, as amended in Amendment B submitted May 2, 2006, are merely deleted from the instant claim because they are disclosed by Gatto et al., and not because they are disclosed in the instant specification as inferior or less preferred. As stated in M.P.E.P. §2131.04, secondary considerations, such as unexpected results or commercial success, are irrelevant to 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections. Specifically, as stated in M.P.E.P. §2131, a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a

single prior art reference. As such, the mere fact that Gatto et al. fail to disclose the specific rheology enhancers of claim 1, and as such, fail to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1, is sufficient to determine that claim 1 is novel over the Gatto et al. reference.

Claims 2-6 and 13-18 depend directly from claim 1. As such, claims 2-6 and 13-18 are patentable for the same reasons as claim 1 set forth above, as well as for the additional elements they require.

Claim 41 depends directly from claim 21, which is similar to claim 1 and further requires the lotion formulation to have a melt point viscosity of from about 5000 cPs to about 1,000,000 cPs and a process temperature viscosity of from about 50 cPs to about 50,000 cPs. As such, claim 41, which depends on claim 21, is patentable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 21, as well as for the additional elements it requires. Particularly, Gatto et al. fail to disclose each and every limitation of claim 21 as Gatto et al. fail to disclose the specific rheology enhancers required by claim 21.

2. Rejection of Claims 7-12 and 19-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 7-12 and 19-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Gatto et al. (U.S. 6,570,054) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Gatto et al.

Claims 7-12 and 19-20 depend directly on claim 1, which is discussed above. As such, claims 7-12 and 19-20 are patentable over Gatto et al. reference for the same reasons as claim 1 set forth above, as well as for the additional elements they require. Specifically, Gatto et al. fail to

disclose or suggest the specific rheology enhancers of claim 1.

In order for the Office to show a *prima facie* case of obviousness, M.P.E.P. §2142 requires a clear articulation of the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious. Specifically, the Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S. 398, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (2007) noted that the burden lies initially with the Office to provide an explicit analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. "[R]ejections on obviousness cannot be sustained with mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some **articulated reasoning** with some **rational underpinning** to support the legal conclusion of obviousness." The Court in KSR International further identified a number of rationales to support a conclusion of obviousness which are consistent with the proper "functional approach" to the determination of obviousness as laid down in Graham v. John Deere Co. (383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966)). Specifically, as previously required by the TSM (teaching, suggestion, motivation) approach to obviousness, one exemplary rationale indicated requires some teaching, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art references that would have led one of ordinary skill to modify the prior art references to arrive at the claimed invention. Specifically, to reject a claim based on this rationale, the Office must articulate the following: (1) a finding that there was some teaching, suggestion, or motivation, either in the reference itself or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference to arrive at each and every limitation of the claimed invention; (2) a finding that there was reasonable expectation of success; and (3) whatever additional findings based on the Graham factual inquiries may be necessary, in view of the facts of the case

under consideration, to explain a conclusion of obviousness. The Office has failed to meet its burden under number (1) above, as the cited reference fails to show each and every limitation of Applicants' invention and there is no apparent reason for one skilled in the art to modify the reference to arrive at each and every limitation. It simply would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to arrive at Applicants' claimed combinations.

As noted above, Gatto et al. fail to disclose or suggest the specific rheology enhancers of claim 1. Furthermore, there is no motivation or suggestion to modify the Gatto et al. reference to arrive at the instantly claimed rheology enhancers. Specifically, no where is there motivation to substitute the rheology enhancers of claim 1 for one of the multiple rheological agents disclosed in Gatto et al.

With all due respect, it appears that the Office has used impermissible hindsight analysis and reconstruction when modifying the Gatto et al. reference.⁵ Notably, it would be clear to one skilled in the art reading Gatto et al. that a skin care composition can include a rheology enhancer. There are, however, a myriad of rheology enhancers, many of which

⁵ M.P.E.P. §2142 provides that in order to reach a proper determination under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner must step backward in time and into the shoes worn by the hypothetical "person of ordinary skill in the art" when the invention was unknown and just before it was made. Knowledge of Applicants' disclosure must be put aside in reaching this determination, yet kept in mind in order to determine the "differences." The tendency to resort to "hindsight" based upon Applicants' disclosure is often difficult to avoid due to the very nature of the examination process. However, as stated by the Federal Circuit, impermissible hindsight must be avoided and the legal conclusion must be reached on the basis of the facts gleaned from the prior art. *Grain Processing Corp. v. American-Maize-Products, Co.*, 840 F.2d 902, 904 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

are used in skin care compositions. What is important is that there is no motivation or suggestion to use the rheology enhancers as claimed in amended claim 1, over any of the other enormous number of rheology enhancers described in the art.

Because there is no reason to modify the reference cited by the Office, claim 1 is patentable. Additionally, claims 7-12 and 19-20, which depend on claim 1 are patentable for the same reasons as claim 1 set forth above, as well as for the additional elements they require.

Claim 21, which is discussed above, is similar to claim 1, and as such, is patentable over the Gatto et al. reference for the same reasons as claim 1 set forth above. Additionally, claims 22-36, which depend on claim 21, are patentable for the same reasons as claim 21, as well as for the additional elements they require.

3. Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 10-18 for Obviousness
Type Double Patenting

Claims 1-6 and 10-18 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/659,967.

It should be noted that U.S. Patent Application No. 10/659,967 has issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,547,443. Accordingly, Applicants have enclosed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the obviousness-type double patenting rejection based on the '967 application ('443 patent) be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the double patenting rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee for a Request for Continued Examination and any additional fees in connection with this Amendment C and Response After RCE to Deposit Account Number 01-2384.

Respectfully submitted,

/Christopher M. Goff/

Christopher M. Goff, Reg. No. 41,785
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 621-5070

CMG/JMB/EMF